

Message Text

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07922 040925Z

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7922

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY

1. AS YOU KNOW I SAW BHUTTO TODAY IN BALUCHISTAN RE THE LOCALE FOR YOUR VISIT HERE. IN YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, I FOUND THE BACKGROUND AS TO HOW THE AFGHAN VISIT HAD COME ABOUT, AND THE TWO POINTS NAIM HAD MADE TO YOU, THE MOST USEFUL AND I BUILD MY REMARKS AROUND THAT. I SAID IT WENT WITHOUT SAYING, OF COURSE, THAT YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING THAT COULD MAKE PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WORSE, BUT I THOUGHT THE REAL POINT LAY BEYOND THIS - THAT YOU WOULD NOT WANT A SITUATION WHERE ANY ONE COULD POINT TO ANY ASPECT OF YOUR VISIT WITH AN ACCUSATION THAT IT MIGHT HAVE DELAYED OR DAMAGED THE HOPEFUL COURSE THE PAKS AND AFGHANS SEEMED TO BE ON. THAT THIS MIGHT IN FACT BE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED COULD LOSE ITS IMPORTANCE IF OTHERS WANTED TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT. I, OF COURSE, ENDED MY REMARKS BY SAYING YOU WOULD ACCEPT ANY DECISION HE MADE ON ALL THIS AFTER CONSIDERATION OF OUR VIEWS.

2. BHUTTO SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED AND PLEASED OVER NAIM'S STATEMENT RE BALANCING UP THE SOVIET POSITION IN AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID THAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE I HAD SAID. HE SAID HE WAS CERTAIN HE COULD WIN IN A DEBATE WITH ME THAT A VISIT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 07922 040925Z

PESHAWAR BY YOU HTD JUST AS GOOD A CHJCCE OF BEING BENEFICIAL AS DETRIMENTAL. HE SAID HE BASED THAT CONCLUSION UPON HIS OWN RECENT RESTRICTED TALKS IN KABUL. HE SAID "I'M EVEN OF THE OPINION THAT DAOUD HIMSELF WOULD BE GLAD

TO ACCOMPANY ME TO PESHAWAR WHEN HE COMES LATER THIS MONTH AND YOU MAY JUST SEE THAT HE DOES." BUT HE QUICKLY ADDED HE WOULDN'T DEBATE ME ON ANY OF THIS, AS THAT WOULD BE TALKING ABOUT SUBSTANCE WHEN THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY IOTA OF SUBSTANCE AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED IN THIS WHOLE SUBJECT.

3. BHUTTO SAID HIS ONLY MOTIVE IN ALL THIS WAS TO GIVE YOU A MEMORABLE AND INTERESTING VISIT. HE WAXED SENTIMENTAL, SAYING HE COULDN'T AGREE WITH YOU ON EVERYTHING, BUT HE LIKED YOU GREATLY, ENJOYED YOUR BRILLIANCE AND ARTICULATION, AND HE WANTED A REALLY NICE VISIT FOR YOU. HE SAID NEITHER YOU NOR HE WOULD BE IN PRESENT POSITIONS FOREVER, AND HE JUST HATED TO TAKE YOU BACK SO MANY TIMES TO THE SAME SQUALID AND SQUATTY RAWALPINDI. HE SAID HE HAD REALLY WANTED NATHIAGALI - COULD WE RETURN TO THAT?

4. THIS PUT ME IN AN AWKWARD SPOT AND I SAID WE WOULD OF COURSE, BUT THAT I WAS WORRIED OVER THE PERSONAL SAFETY FACTOR. FORTUNATELY, AZIZ AHMED TOOK OVER AND TALKED HIM OUT OF THAT (YOU SHOULD KNOW THERE IS A CHANCE WE ARE ENTERING INTO A SERIOUS FLOOD STAGE HERE THAT COULD BE AS SERIOUS AS 1973, AND THAT THE AFTERMATH COULD BE SERIOUS WHEN YOU ARE HERE.) AZIZ ALSO TALKED HIM OUT OF MURREE FOR THE SAME REASON (MY OWN FAMILY HAVE BEEN STRANDED THERE NOW FOR THREE DAYS UNABLE TO EVEN DRIVE OUT).

5. SUDDENLY BHUTTO QUERIED ME AS TO WHETHER YOU OR YOUR FAMILY HAD EVER BEEN TO LAHORE. I SAID I DIDN'T KNOW, BUT DOUBTED OUR FAMILY HAD IN ANY EVENT. CLEARLY HE WAS BEGINNING TO THINK THIS WAS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE (IT IS ONE OF ASIA'S NICEST CITIES AND STUDED WITH FAMOUS MOHGUL WONDERS.) HE ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT. I SAID I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE DELIGHTED, AND WE AGREED THIS SUBJECT WAS FINALLY AND HAPPILY SETTLED. I DID TELL HIM, THAT WE WOULDN'T AT THIS STAGE WANT TO MESS UP SCHEDULES IN TWO OTHER COUNTRIES, SO HE REALIZES IT WILL MEAN A SLIGHTLY LATER ARRIVAL AND TAKEOFF, BUT NOT BY VERY MUCH.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 07922 040925Z

6. I DESCRIBED THE WEAK SENTENCE IN THE JOINT STATEMENT ON SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AS BEING NOTHING MORE THAN INADVERTENCE WHICH HAD NEVER COME TO YOUR ATTENTION AND SHOULD NEVER HAVE REACHED HIM. I SAID YOU WANTED TO STRENGTHEN IT AND I WOULD WORK IT OUT WITH SHAHI, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT. HE SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT (SENTENCE HAD ALREADY BEEN POINTED OUT TO HIM BY AZIZ AND SHAHI) BUT HE WOULD LEAVE THE DETAILS TO US. I COULDN'T FINISH THIS ONE AT ZIARAT AS I HAD TO LEAVE TO NEGOTIATE AN 80 MILE POOR MOUNTAIN ROAD TO GET BACK TO AN UNLIGHTED RUNWAY BEFORE DARK. WITH YOUR APPROVAL ON BEEFED UP WORDING ALREADY IN HAND, I PREDICT NO TROUBLE ON THIS.

7. FOR THE SAKE OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, I DO HOPE YOU
CAN BELIEVE THAT BHUTTO WAS NOT TRYING TO BE "MACHIAVELLIAN"
RE PESHAWAR. I DON'T THINK HE WAS. BEGUM BHUTTO HAS TOLD
US QUITE INDEPENDENTLY OF HIS HOPES TO MAKE THIS ONE
"DIFFERENT AND NICE", AND SHE IS ONE TRUE-BLUE, COMPLETELY
RELIABLE, AND UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCE*
BYROADE
NOTE: REF TEL UPGRADED TO EXDIS PER STATE 191570

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